



## West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

December 4, 2006

Mr. Scott Hassett, Secretary  
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources  
101 South Webster St., PO Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Dear Secretary Hassett:

We are writing to once again support the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition's (WBC) application to EPA for a federal brownfields Revolving Loan Fund grant. The West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, representing Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk and St. Croix Counties, is formally agreeing to continue as a member of the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition for the purpose of applying for the EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). This grant would be administered by DNR as part of the Ready for Reuse Grant & Loan Program that provides funding to Wisconsin communities to help them clean up brownfields.

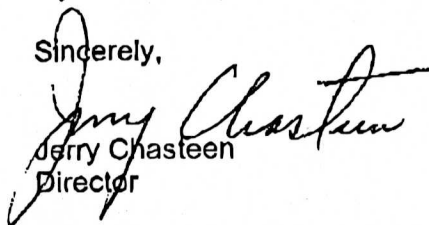
Brownfields are a significant obstacle in regaining Wisconsin's environmental and economic health. These abandoned, idle or underused properties can face many hurdles to redevelopment, and the first of these is the stigma of contamination. The WBC's grant would be used to clean up environmental contamination in areas where pollutants have been identified as a problem. After cleanup, brownfields can be redeveloped so that growth occurs within "downtown" communities rather than sprawling into green spaces on the edges of towns.

The RLF application by the WBC is a good fit with our regional planning goals for several reasons:

- It supports sound land use management.
- It helps local governments take advantage of existing infrastructures.
- It helps protect citizens from environmental pollutants.
- It helps urban centers market themselves as healthy and productive places to work and live.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (715) 836-2918.

Sincerely,



Jerry Chasteen  
Director

Cc: Darsi Foss, DNR RR/3



November 28, 2006

Ms. Darsi Foss  
Brownfields Section  
Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (RR/3)  
P. O. Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707

**RE: Wisconsin "Ready of Reuse" Initiative: Leave No Brownfields Behind ~ Additional Funding Request November 2006**

Dear Ms. Foss:

The City of Kenosha is forwarding this letter in support of additional funding being requested for Wisconsin's "Ready for Reuse" Initiative: Leave No Brownfield Behind.

The Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition (WBC) formed to submit the initial application includes the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Commerce and Administration and includes the Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions as additional coalition members. The WDNR is seeking additional federal funding for this already successful program to continue the investigation and clean up of brownfield properties.

The Remediation and Redevelopment Program, on behalf of the WBC, is applying to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to augment the Wisconsin Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). The RLF would add approximately \$3 million to the existing funding that could be used for site assessment and remediation of brownfields. This fund, administered by DNR for the WBC, would allow local units of government to access the fund in support of Brownfield redevelopment in their communities. Governor Doyle's "Grow Wisconsin Initiative" supports the application of the WBC for the RLF and it would meet the goals designed for this initiative by returning brownfields to active reuse resulting in increased tax base and creation of new jobs.

If successful, the WBC's additional Revolving Loan Funding would be able to provide sub-grants and low or no-interest loans to local government units for the redevelopment of Brownfields within their communities. Wisconsin's Brownfield Initiative has been very successful in providing tools and access to capital to public and private sector entities to promote brownfield redevelopment. The partnerships developed between local units of government and the private sector for the redevelopment process have leveraged significant private investment and the additional funding for the RLF would further enhance this goal. The RFR funding awarded to WBC in the initial award (\$4,000,000) is completing its application process and is close to totally subscribed.

The City of Kenosha, a first-ring suburban city, has experienced the loss of significant tax base and jobs as a result of the evolution of the midwestern near-urban manufacturing

communities. By necessity, as a result of this evolution, the City has been very active in creating new tax base and jobs. The redevelopment of brownfields has been, and will continue to be, a cornerstone of the Kenosha plan to improve the quality of life within the City.

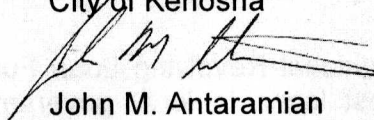
Kenosha has been recognized for its innovative participation in Brownfield redevelopment by creating public/private partnerships and leveraging the public funding with private sector capital. The City has several "state of the art" Brownfield redevelopment projects including:

- Harbor Park that converted an old auto manufacturing lakefront facility into a showpiece mixed use development:
  - Residential: Condominiums and Town Homes
  - Two Museums: Natural History and Civil War
  - Retail: restaurants
  - Commercial: office
  - Transportation: Lakefront Trolley/Downtown
- Former Brass Foundry and Manufacturing site:
  - Retail: Grocery/Drug Store/Retail (western portion)
  - Central Area: New School
  - Eastern Area: Affordable Housing

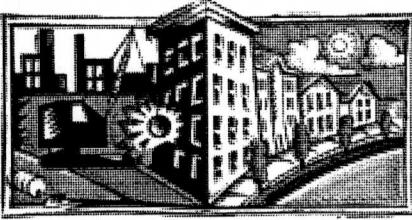
Each of these successful projects, and numerous others in the City of Kenosha, has utilized the tools included in the Wisconsin Brownfield Initiative, the U.S. EPA Brownfield programs and partnered with private sector capital to improve the quality of life in Kenosha, cleanup the environment and provide for economic development.

The State of Wisconsin has demonstrated successful use of the initial funding of the Ready for Reuse program and the need for the additional funding. The City enthusiastically supports the WBC's application to the EPA for the current request for additional funding of the state wide revolving loan fund and requests that the Wisconsin Brownfield Coalition application be funded.

Sincerely,  
City of Kenosha



John M. Antaramian  
Mayor



# THE BROWNFIELDS STUDY GROUP 2006

## Members

John Antaramian  
Nancy Frank  
Arthur Harrington  
Steve Hiniker  
Bruce A. Keyes  
Larry Kirch  
Scott Manley  
Peter McAvoy  
Dave Misky  
Tom Mueller  
Peter Peshek  
John Stibal  
Joy W. Stieglitz  
Mark Thimke  
Scott Wilson

December 1, 2006

Scott Hassett, Secretary  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
101 South Webster Street  
P.O. Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921

Dear Secretary Hassett:

On behalf of Wisconsin's Brownfields Study Group, we are writing to once again support the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition's (WBC) application to EPA for a federal brownfields Revolving Loan Fund grant. This grant would be administered by DNR as part of the Ready for Reuse Grant & Loan Program that provides funding to Wisconsin communities to help them clean up brownfields.

Brownfields are a significant obstacle in regaining Wisconsin's environmental and economic health. These abandoned, idle or underused properties can face many hurdles to redevelopment, and the first of these is the stigma of contamination. The WBC's grant would be used to clean up environmental contamination in areas where pollutants have been identified as a problem. After cleanup, brownfields can be redeveloped so that growth occurs within "downtown" communities rather than sprawling into green spaces on the edges of towns.

We support the RLF application for several reasons:

- It supports sound land use management.
- It helps local governments take advantage of existing infrastructures.
- It helps protect citizens from environmental pollutants.
- It helps urban centers market themselves as healthy and productive places to work and live.

Possible brownfield redevelopment projects that could use RLF funds include:

- applicants for, or recipients of, DNR Brownfields Site Assessment or Brownfields Green Space and Public Facilities grants at locations that require additional environmental cleanup;
- applicants for Department of Administration Coastal Management Grants at locations that need environmental cleanup;
- applicants for Department of Commerce Brownfields Grants that did not receive a grant; and
- applicants for brownfields in communities with high unemployment and poverty, such as federal enterprise communities, renewal communities, or state community development and enterprise zones.

The Wisconsin Brownfields program has been recognized as a leader in innovation, in part because of the diverse availability of funding. We believe that revolving loan funds administered by the WBC would provide a remarkable return on investment in terms of the impact on contaminated properties in Wisconsin and fill an urgent need essential to fuel the economic engine of growth. On behalf of the Brownfield Study Group and in particular, the private sector and local government members of the Group, we urge the award of funds to the Wisconsin Brownfield Coalition.

Sincerely,



Bruce A. Keyes

On Behalf of the Wisconsin Brownfields Study Group

cc: Brownfields Study Group members  
Darsi Foss - DNR